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AT BE CH DE DK ES FR GB GR IT LI LU NL SE(71) Applicant: **TEXAS INSTRUMENTS
INCORPORATED**
13500 North Central Expressway
Dallas Texas 75265(US)(84) **AT BE CH DE DK ES FR GB GR IT LI LU NL SE**(71) Applicant: **Texas Instruments Holland B.V.**

Kolthofsingel 8 Postbox 43
NL-7600 AA Almelo(NL)
(84) **NL**

(72) Inventor: **d'Hont, Loek**
De Notenkraker 2
NL 7609 AK Almelo(NL)

(74) Representative: **de Bruijn, Leendert C. et al**
Nederlandsch Octrooibureau
Scheveningseweg 82 P.O. Box 29720
NL-2502 LS Den Haag (NL)

(54) **Built-in chip transponder with antenna coil.**

(57) An antenna circuit to be used in conjunction with a chip transponder such that the antenna circuit serves for both the reception of interrogative signals intended for the transponder as well as for response signals that are to be transmitted by the transponder. The antenna circuit has at least one magnetic circuit of high μ material, and is formed of ceramic core means, that have been built into a depression in a thick-walled surface intended to receive the chip transponder. This thick-walled surface may be of metal. The ceramic core means comprise at least a ceramic core resonator (2) and half a ceramic core (3) that functions as an antenna with its open side facing outward. In one aspect, the ceramic core resonator and the half ceramic core antenna are coupled by means of one or more secondary coils of the closed ceramic core, which also form the coils of the half ceramic core antenna. In another aspect, the secondary coil forms a resonating circuit with at least one capacitive element in series. In yet another aspect, the ceramic core resonator and the half ceramic core antenna are formed by one and the same half ceramic core, which may be closed in part by a magnetic covering disk. In yet another aspect, the resonator may consist of a half ceramic core which is placed against the back of the half ceramic core antenna.

fig-1a

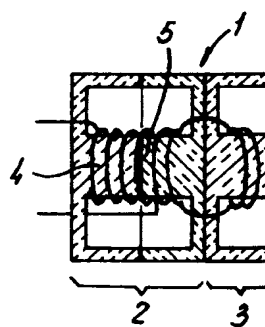
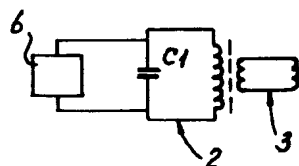


fig-1b

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FIELD OF THE INVENTION

The invention refers to an antenna circuit to be used in a chip transponder such that the antenna circuit serves both for the reception of interrogative signals for the transponder as well as for the dissemination of response signals to be transmitted by the transponder such that the antenna circuit has at least one magnetic circuit of material of high μ .

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

In practice it is known that in order for a transponder chip to be embedded in or attached to an object or an animal that is to be identified, it must be equipped with an antenna circuit or antenna element of high μ material. Thus, a chip of this type is often equipped with a small ferrite staff that serves as an antenna beacon. One disadvantage is the fact that such an antenna circuit does not have such a sharply defined field of radiation into space.

Similarly, such an embodiment does not lend itself well to incorporation into a thick-walled surface.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

It is the goal of the present invention to create an antenna circuit for a chip transponder that is to be incorporated into a thick-walled surface that does not protrude and is thus little prone to damage from the outside due to crushing, one that has an effective field of radiation while retaining a high quality factor and sufficient selection difference.

This is achieved in the case of an antenna circuit of the sort named in the preface that conforms to the invention in such a way that the antenna circuit is formed of ceramic cores, which are built into a cavity in a thick-walled surface that is intended for the chip transponder, so that the field of radiation from the antenna circuit extends in a direction away from the surface. The surface is, for example, made of metal.

In this embodiment in keeping with the invention, a damage-resistant chip transponder that is built into a thick-walled surface and an antenna circuit are realized which, despite their incorporation into the metal, yield a high quality factor and adequate antenna properties. The selective distance in this case may be, for example, 20 to 30 cm.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

The invention will be illustrated in greater detail by virtue of a few examples of various embodi-

ments, calling attention to the drawings, in which:

Figures 1 a and 1 b respectively present a transverse section view and an electrical diagram of the first embodiment in keeping with the invention;

Figures 2a and 2b respectively present a transverse section view and electrical diagram of a second embodiment in keeping with the invention;

Figures 3a, 3b, and 3c respectively present a transverse section view with a single turn, a transverse section view with the corresponding structure of a number of coil packets, and an electrical diagram of a third embodiment in keeping with the invention;

Figures 4a and 4b respectively present a transverse view and an electrical diagram of a fourth embodiment in keeping with the invention;

Figures 5a, 5b, and 5c respectively present a transverse view, a frontal view, and an electrical diagram of a fifth embodiment in keeping with the invention; and

Figure 6 presents a transverse view of a chip transponder built into a thick-walled metallic surface and the antenna coil thereunto appertaining.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

The incorporation of a chip transponder into a thick-walled metallic surface and a ceramic core as an antenna entails the problem that the quality factor which, in open space, may be 80, for example, is diminished to 60, for example, as a result of being built in. Such incorporation, therefore, must occur in such a way that the radiation field has sufficient scope and selective distance. Preferably, such a selective distance should be 20 to 30 cm.

This is realized in the embodiments that are illustrated in the following figures.

Figure 1a shows a transverse view of an antenna circuit 1 that works in conjunction with the chip transponder, which circuit consists of a ceramic core resonator 2 and a ceramic core antenna 3. The resonator 2 is formed of a closed ceramic core that consists of two half ceramic cores 4, 5, from which a secondary coil (two windings) is connected with a half of a ceramic core that serves as an antenna. The resonator with the closed ceramic core can, despite the metallic environment, have a high Q, as a result of which the antenna which has the ceramic core can have a lower Q. As a result of the aforementioned loose connection, some energy is used for the radiation field. The quality factor on the primary side in the resonator remains sufficiently high. In Figure 1b, it is shown that the primary coil in the resonator forms a resonant circuit with a capacitive element C1 in series. The

resonator is connected to the chip transponder 6.

Figure 2a shows a transverse section of a second embodiment. The secondary circuit is now embodied in such a way as to resonate with a capacitive element C2. In the equivalent diagram, which is shown in Figure 2b, the frequency of the secondary antenna circuit 8 can be adjusted, for example, to the low side of the frequency band that is to be used, while the primary resonator 7 is then adjusted to its high side. In this embodiment, the coupling factor, determined by the number of coils and the resistor R, is chosen in such a way that a flat band curve is obtained for the transponder application.

In Figure 3a, a transverse section of a third embodiment is shown, one with a so-called sliced-inductor packet 10. The resonator and the antenna are formed by one and the same half ceramic core. This embodiment has the best antenna properties with good scope of field and an appropriate selection distance. It is bothersome, however, to retain a good quality factor in this case. For the purpose of achieving this end, tinsel conductor, for example, may be used. At the same time, independent, flat, disk-shaped coil packets, as shown in figure 3b, may be used as coils in order to keep the capacity of the total assembly low, and, by these means, to retain a high quality factor of the resonator. The equivalent electrical diagram is shown in figure 3c.

In Figure 4a, a transverse section view is presented of a fourth embodiment in which the resonator 12 that consists of having a ceramic core is placed with its open side against the antenna 13 that consists of half a ceramic core. In this embodiment, magnetic energy from the resonator is given off to the ceramic core antenna by way of the magnetic coupling. In Figure 4b, once again, the equivalent electrical diagram is indicated.

In Figure 5a, a transverse section view of a further embodiment is indicated, in which the ceramic core resonator and the ceramic core antenna are formed once again by one and the same ceramic core 14. This ceramic core is, in part, shut off on the outside by means of a covering disk 15, such as Figure 5b indicates. The mechanism is such, in the meantime, that the resonator's field of distribution is used as the field of radiation due to the fact that the ceramic core has no ideal closed magnetic circuit. In Figure 5c, once again, the equivalent electrical diagram is shown.

In Figure 6, a transverse section view is presented of a transponder 6 with the appropriate resonator-antenna circuit 17. The whole is encapsulated in a packaging 18 and incorporated into a thick metallic wall 16. The antenna circuit may be executed as indicated in Figures 1 to 5.

Claims

1. An antenna circuit to be used in conjunction with a chip transponder such that the antenna circuit serves for both the reception of interrogative signals intended for the transponder as well as for response signals that are to be transmitted by the transponder, such that the antenna circuit has at least one magnetic circuit of high μ material, characterized in that the antenna circuit is formed of ceramic core means, that have been built into a depression in a thick-walled surface intended to receive the chip transponder so that the radiation field of the antenna circuit extends in a direction away from the surface.
2. An antenna circuit in accordance with Claim 1, wherein the ceramic core means comprise at least a ceramic core resonator and half a ceramic core that functions as an antenna with its open side facing outward, which resonator and antenna are mutually coupled, one to the other.
3. An antenna circuit in accordance with Claim 2, wherein the resonator consists of a closed ceramic core, and wherein the ceramic core resonator and the half ceramic core antenna are coupled by means of one or more secondary coils of the closed ceramic core, which also form the coils of the half ceramic core antenna.
4. An antenna circuit in accordance with Claim 3, wherein the aforementioned secondary coil forms a resonating circuit with at least one capacitive element in series.
5. An antenna circuit in accordance with Claim 4, wherein the resonant circuit is adjusted, with its frequency on the low side of the frequency band and the resonator on the high side of the frequency band.
6. An antenna circuit in accordance with Claim 2, wherein the ceramic core resonator and the half ceramic core antenna are formed by one and the same half ceramic core having one or more coils.
7. An antenna circuit in accordance with Claim 6, wherein the coils are executed as flat disk-shaped coil packets.
8. An antenna circuit in accordance with Claim 6, wherein the same half ceramic core is closed in part by a magnetic covering disk.

9. An antenna circuit in accordance with Claim 2,
wherein the resonator consists of a half of a
ceramic core which is placed against the back
of the half ceramic core antenna such that a
portion of the magnetic energy from the reso-
nator is transferred to the antenna via magnetic
coupling. 5
10. An antenna circuit in accordance with Claim 1,
wherein the thick-walled surface consists of 10
metal.

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fig-1a

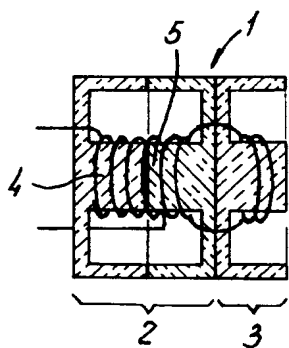


fig-1b

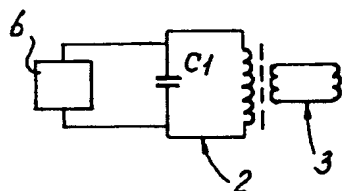


fig-2a

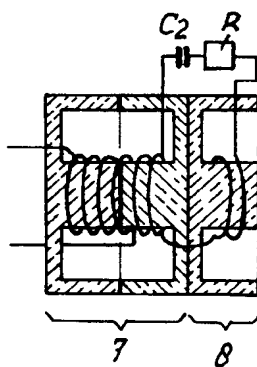


fig-2b

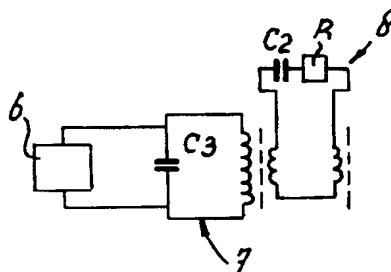


fig-3a fig-3b

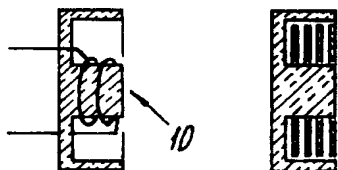


fig-3c

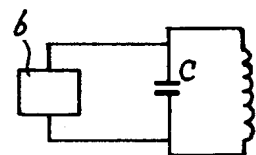


fig-4a

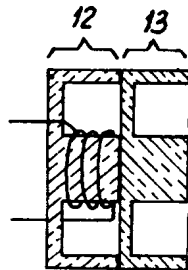


fig-4b

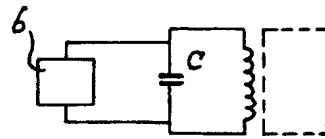


fig-5a fig-5b

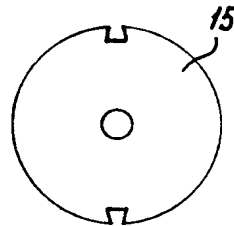
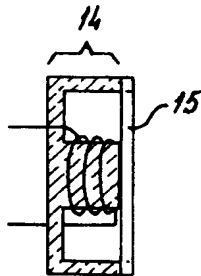


fig-5c

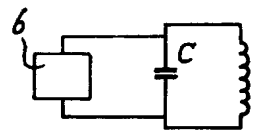
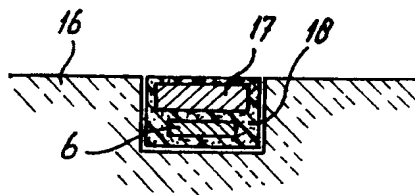


fig-6





European Patent
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EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application Number

EP 91 20 3429

DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT			
Category	Citation of document with indication, where appropriate, of relevant passages	Relevant to claim	CLASSIFICATION OF THE APPLICATION (Int. Cl.5)
A	US-A-3 823 403 (WALTER ET AL.) * abstract * * column 4, line 27 - column 5, line 31; figures 1,10,26 * ----	1-5, 10	H01Q7/08 H01Q7/06
A	US-A-4 943 810 (ITO ET AL.) * abstract; figures 1-9 * ----	1	
A	US-A-4 575 699 (LOCKWOOD) * abstract; figures 1-5 * ----	1-3	
A	US-A-4 646 038 (WANAT) * abstract; figures 1,3 * -----	1-3	
			TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (Int. Cl.5)
			H01Q G01S H01P G06K
The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			
Place of search THE HAGUE		Date of completion of the search 26 AUGUST 1992	Examiner ANGRABEIT F. F. K.
CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS			
X : particularly relevant if taken alone Y : particularly relevant if combined with another document of the same category A : technological background O : non-written disclosure P : intermediate document		T : theory or principle underlying the invention E : earlier patent document, but published on, or after the filing date D : document cited in the application L : document cited for other reasons ----- & : member of the same patent family, corresponding document	